(c) if so, whether Government has formulated any housing policy for urban areas in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement the above policy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to the estimations of the Technical Group constituted by the Ministry for assessment of the urban housing shortage at the end of the Tenth Five Year plan, the total housing shortage in the country is 24.71 million. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan period, the total urban housing requirement including the backlog and additional requirement is estimated as 26.53 million dwelling units.

(c) and (d) The new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 has been laid in both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007. Land being a State subject, State Governments have to take steps for implementation of initiatives envisaged in the policy. The Policy has been widely publicised and has been forwarded to all States/Union Territories as well as to various Ministries of the Central Government and other implementing agencies for creation of supportive environment by preparation of State Urban Housing and Habitat Policies and Action Plan, review of legal and regulatory regimes, promotion of optimal utilization of land by innovative spatial incentives and development of green field towns and integrated urban housing extensions of existing towns. It also provides for promotive various types of Public-Private Partnerships for augmenting the housing stock.

India's meetings with IAEA

†*58. DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI.
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER S1NGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks are on between representives of India and International Atomic Energy Agency under Indo-US nuclear pact agreement,

(b) if so, the number of rounds of talks so far held in this regad;

(c) whether it has become a controversial issue between both the parties during the talks; and

(d) by when the talks are likely to become a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) Four rounds of discussions have been held so far. The first round was held in November 2007, second in December 2007 and third and fourth in January 2008.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Discussions have taken place on all issues related to a Safeguards Agreement and during the first four rounds, substantial progress has been made. Further discussions are scheduled during February 25-27,2008. All efforts are being made to complete the process as soon as possible. However, it is difficult to prejudge when the talks are likely to become a success.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.